

# ROTOVUE

Serving Marine Corps Air Station New River and Jacksonville, N.C.

www.newriver.usmc.mil

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## News

### Marine Corps Birthday Message

"We all know that a powerful combination of teamwork and individual achievement forms the strength of our Corps. We are Marines, first and foremost. Through innovation, trust, and mutual respect, we have evolved into an adaptive and flexible fighting force ideally suited for 21st Century challenges. Though the character of war continually changes, we understand that the nature of war is timeless: that the ultimate arbiter of battle is the human will. We recognize this, and we embrace the values that strengthen our will and define our character. For two hundred and twenty-seven years, Marines and their families have dedicated themselves to the cause of the defense of freedom. Our accomplishments adorn the masthead of the Battle Color of the Marine Corps for all to admire, and they reflect the importance of the legacy we inherit and willingly accept.

Through shared experience and success in battle, we distinguish ourselves by selfless service - in a sense, we are a fraternity of sacrifice. As stewards of our rich heritage, we continually reflect upon the generations of Marines who, in their time, faithfully answered our country's call. In their example we will find the strength and inspiration necessary to meet the coming challenges. We celebrate this connection with our history, yet we remain focused on the challenges of our future. We have an important dual responsibility to remain ready for today, while transforming our capabilities to meet the challenges of tomorrow.

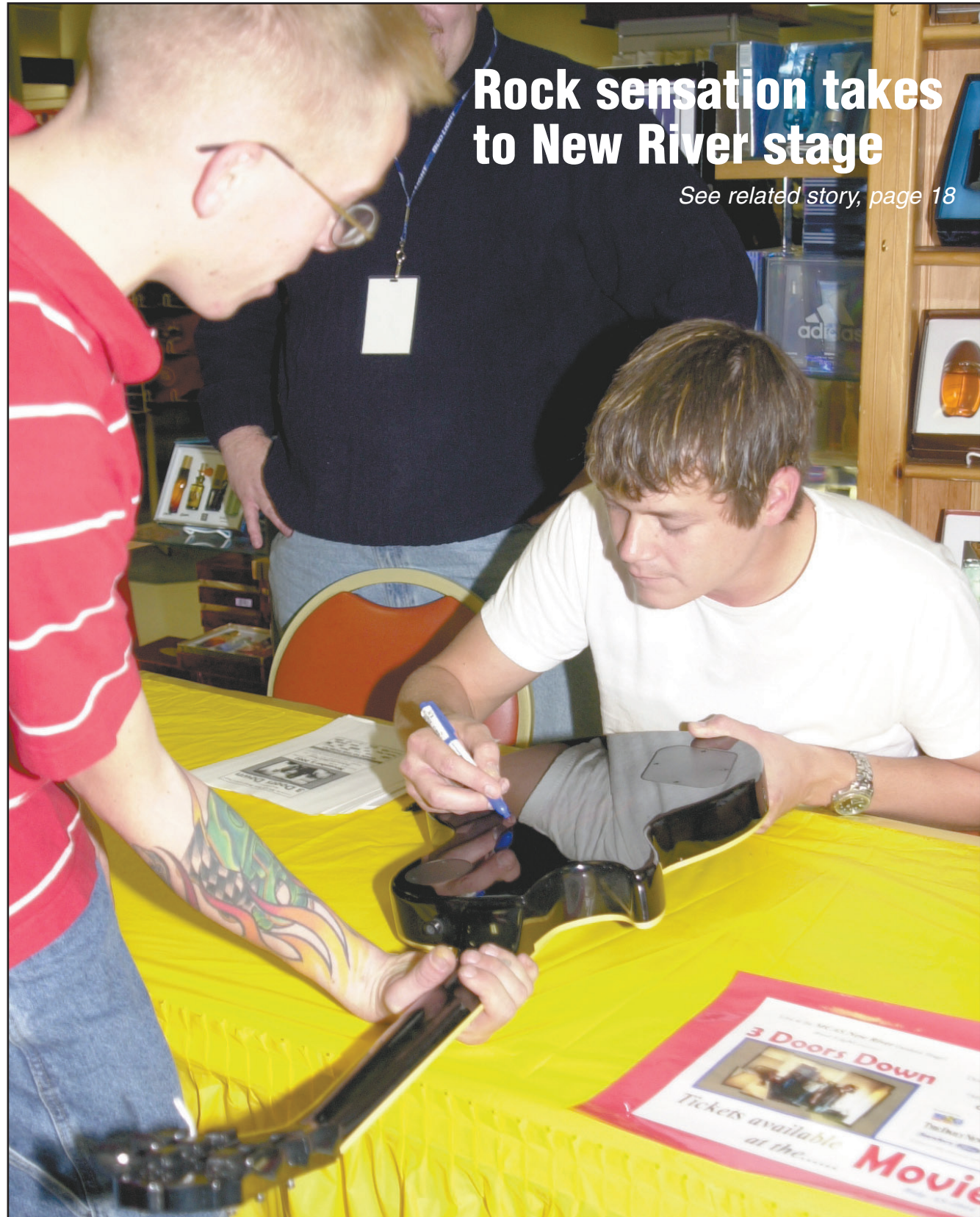
We find profoundly gratifying, our lifelong pride of association with fellow Marines - active, reserve, veteran, and civilian - and the knowledge that we contribute daily to securing our Nation's freedom.

I encourage all Marines to celebrate the camaraderie, enrichment, and fulfillment of service with men and women subordinated to a greater cause: preparing for an exciting future and extending the legacy of our great Corps."

Happy Birthday, Marines! Semper Fidelis,  
Gen. James L. Jones,  
Commandant of the Marine Corps

### Rock sensation takes to New River stage

*See related story, page 18*



Hit and Run

The PMO traffic division aboard Camp Lejeune is looking for a white Ford F250/350 extended cab that was recently involved in a hit and run aboard Camp Lejeune. This vehicle has a front Harley Davidson license plate, a bug shield on the hood, heavy-duty tow bar, clearance lights on the cab, chrome bumpers, chrome toolbox, and a Harley Davidson sticker in the rear window. If you see this vehicle, attempt to get a plate number and contact Lejeune PMO at 451-1666.

Lost and Found

Several bicycles and scooters have been turned in to the lost and found at the Station provost marshal's office. If you are missing your bicycle or scooter, contact the lost and found custodian at 449-5733.

Tree Lighting Ceremony

The New River tree lighting ceremony is scheduled for Dec. 1, at 2 p.m. The annual One Mile and 5K Jingle Bell Fun Run will kick off the festivities.

Alternate Membership Cards

A new in-house club membership card is available to provide benefits of being a member without the use of a charge card. For more information, call the officer's club at 449-6406 or the staff NCO club at 449-6707.

Coaches Needed

If you are interested in volunteering as a coach for youth soccer and cheerleading, call the youth sports department at 449-6714.

Holiday Weight Challenge

The New River Fitness Center is conducting a holiday weight challenge to encourage individuals to maintain their weight throughout the holiday season. Participants not only benefit in terms of maintaining healthy eating habits, but they are also eligible for cash prizes. For more information, call 449-6003.

Service Station Grand Opening

The New River service station will have a grand opening, Nov. 8. A ribbon-cutting ceremony with the Air Station commanding officer will take place at 9 a.m. Those attending can register for a chance to win a variety of prizes ranging from free tires to free gas.

Front page photo by  
Lance Cpl. Misty D. Salinas

Fans had an opportunity to meet the members of 3 Doors Down, including lead vocalist, Brad Arnold, at an autograph signing held at the Station Marine Corps Exchange, Nov. 2.

Super Bowl Giveaway

Football fans are encouraged to visit the Station officer's, staff noncommissioned officer's and enlisted clubs to register to win a trip to the Super Bowl along with several other prizes. The drawing will be held at the Enlisted Club, Dec. 15, at 4 p.m. For more information, call 449-5608.

Parents' Night Out

For parents looking to have a night out without their children, the New River Child Development Center is providing childcare, Dec. 6. The cost is \$2.50 for one child and \$1.50 for each additional child. For more information, call 449-6712.

OWC Chinese Auction

The New River Officers' Wives' Club is scheduled to sponsor a Chinese Auction, Nov. 23, at the Officer's Club. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. for preview and auction will start at 7:30 p.m. Admission is \$3 and one donated item for the silent auction (please no white elephants.) A chinese buffet will be served at 5:30 p.m. for an additional cost. For more information, contact Karen Murtha at 450-7494.

New Military Finance Web Site

For those who previously use the E/MSS web site to check their pay status, a new service is now in place called myPay. This service offers faster, enhanced services, security, accessibility and reliability to all customers of the defense finance accounting system worldwide. The following features are provided by myPay:

- \*View, print, and save leave and earning statements
- \*View and print tax statements
- \*Change federal and state withholdings
- \*Update bank account and electronic fund transfer information
- \*Manage allotments
- \*Make address changes
- \*Purchase U.S. Savings Bonds
- \*View and print travel vouchers
- \*Control Thrift Savings Plan enrollment

(some features may vary by armed service and status)

The web address to access the myPay system is

[www.mypay.dfas.mil](http://www.mypay.dfas.mil).

Those who have an existing E/MSS access number can log on to the new site using the same access number. First-timers can log on to the web site and follow the instructions for attaining an access number. For more information, call customer support at 1-800-390-2348 Monday through Friday between 7 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. central standard time.

New Airport Screening Process

Beginning Dec. 31, the Transportation Security Administration will implement new air traveler screening procedures for checked bags. The new procedures involve using explosive trace detection equipment. Marines traveling by air need to be aware of this because this process could detect explosive residue from handling ammunition. Also, Marines should be reminded not to pack "souvenirs" that are not authorized for air travel.

For more information, contact Albert J. Ellis Airport at 324-1100.



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If you have any comments or suggestions you may also contact the public affairs office at (910) 449-6196 or fax (910) 449-6478.



# Delalio students learn safety awareness

**Lance Cpl. Misty D. Salinas**  
correspondent

The holiday season is approaching and more people are out and about, shopping and preparing for vacations. In the hustle and bustle of celebrating the holidays, safety can seem like the last thing on the "shopping list."

After the rash of kidnappings earlier this year, it is not only important for adults to keep safety in mind, but for children to be aware of it as well.

In preparation for the holidays, McGruff the Crime Dog visited the children at Delalio Elementary School to pass out McGruff Safe Kids Identification Kits and remind them of safety during Halloween.

"It's important to remind the kids to be aware and keep safety in mind," said Kathleen Brinson, Delalio Elementary School librarian. "For the children, seeing the animated character [McGruff] in person makes more of an impact on them than say reading a story. They remember it."

"The identification kits came about because of all the things that were happening in the nation regarding missing children," said Cpl. Paul J. Longo, Station Provost Marshal's Office Drug Abuse Resistance Education specialist. "If something was to happen, then parents could take these kits to the local police and it helps us find their children. This gives us a lot of information on their kid."

In addition to having proper identification information on their children, it is important for parents to know where their children are, who they are hanging out with and when they are going to be home. This gives parents the knowledge to aid in finding their children should the need arise, and also knowing sooner if something has happened if the child is not where they are supposed to be.

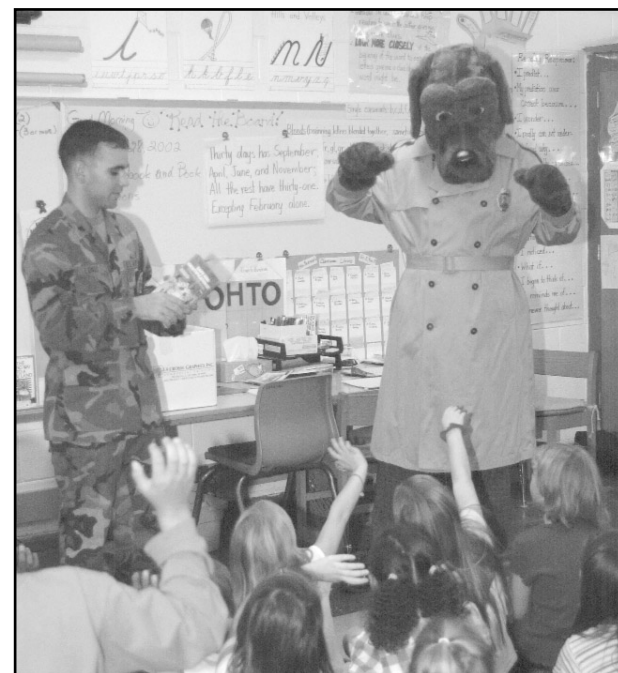
Parents and children are not the only ones that should keep safety in mind, Marines heading out of town for the holidays should also. For those traveling, making sure vehicles are inspected, tires are good and safety equipment on those vehicles is operating properly should be done before they "hit the road."

Adequate planning and directions could help avoid unnecessary risks. In the event of an incident, Marines need to make sure they have correct contact numbers for the Station with them.

While out and about, locking the house and vehicles can help prevent being a victim of crime.

"When they [criminals] go through store parking lots, they're looking for unlocked cars, they're looking for bags sitting around," said Longo. "So anytime you're out, protect your stuff, protect your kids and make sure everything you have is locked up and safe."

This is not all that can be done, but they are small steps that can be taken to ensure the holidays are safe.



Lance Cpl. Misty D. Salinas

**Corporal Paul Longo, Station drug abuse resistance education specialist, along with McGruff the Crime Dog, recently visited Delalio Elementary School to educate students on crime prevention and safety awareness.**

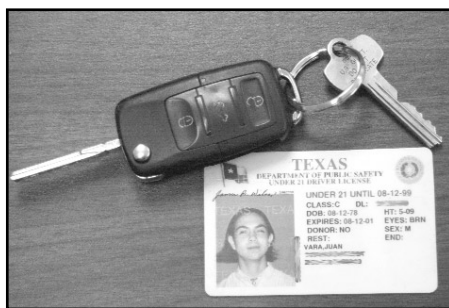
# Driving on suspended license not tolerated

**Sgt. Juan Vara**  
correspondent

Walking provides many health benefits for everyone, reducing the risk of coronary heart disease, improving blood circulation, and helping control weight. If your driver's license is ever suspended, this is what you'll be doing to get from point A to point B ... for 365 days!

More than 117 Marines, Sailors, family members, and Department of Defense employees aboard the Air Station have had their driver's licenses suspended this year for several reasons. Sgt. Maj. Virgil G. Dwyer, Station sergeant major, wants this situation to diminish if not to stop completely.

"There are many ways to get your driver's license suspended," said Cpl. Priscilla M. Callon, traffic court clerk at the Provost Marshal's Office. "The most common one is by getting a DUI [driving under the influence] or a DWI [driving while intoxicated] on base or



Sgt. Juan Vara

**More than 117 drivers aboard the Station have had their license suspended this year for several reasons. New River personnel are encouraged to obey all traffic rules so as to not become a statistic.**

out in town."

Military personnel, family members and DoD employees get 12 base driving privilege points per year. Committing sporadic traffic infractions throughout the year, losing a few points here and there, can suddenly add up to

12 points, giving personnel at the Provost Marshal's Office the right to suspend your license for a year.

Appearance at the Station's PMO traffic court is mandatory for DUIs, DWIs, failure to wear your seat belt (second offense), failure to properly restrain your child (second offense), failure to appear at military traffic court on the dated required, speeding in a school or housing zone, weapons violations, driving without a valid license, failure to insure your vehicle, and driving with a suspended license.

"With most of these mandatory appearances come suspensions," said Callon. "You will be ordered to report to PMO where your DoD decal will be scraped off your vehicle's windshield."

According to Cpl. Richard W. Hackett, a patrolman with the Station's PMO, the vehicle has to be removed from the Station. If it's caught parked here without a DoD decal it will be towed at your expense, setting you back \$150 to \$300.

Many who have had their driver's license suspended out in town think of ways to beat the system and take the risk of driving on base with a suspended license. According to Callon, some individuals get a North Carolina license when their home state's license is suspended.

"When military police officers stop you, they check through the Division of Criminal Information if you previously had a driver's license and if it was suspended," Callon added. "Just because you got rid of your old license doesn't mean it is out of the system. We can always find out about your previous traffic infractions."

The possibility exists of your driver's license being suspended without you even knowing it. By getting a speeding ticket somewhere off base and not paying the fine or appearing at the county's courthouse, your license is suspended automatically.

**See LICENSE, page 11**

# First production V-22 joins flight test program

**Gidge Dady**  
V-22 Public Affairs

**NAVAL AIR SYSTEMS COMMAND, PATUXENT RIVER, Md.** - As part of the gradual ramp up to seven MV-22 Ospreys that will comprise the developmental flight test program here over the next year, the V-22 Integrated Test Team has added two more MV-22s to its flight test program this month.

The addition of two more aircraft--a low rate initial production (LRIP) MV-22 and a second Engineering and Manufacturing, Development (EMD) aircraft--will give added flexibility to the testing efforts which, until October, were carried out by EMD aircraft number 10, the first aircraft to fly with improvements in the hydraulic system and flight control software.

The first LRIP aircraft (number 21) to be used for developmental flight testing, arrived here Oct. 12, a week ahead of schedule. Flown by Marine test pilots Majors Shawn Healy and Paul Hagar and flight test crew chief SSgt "Ollie" Oliverio, the flight originated from the Bell Boeing final assembly plant in Amarillo, Texas. During the five-hour cross-country flight, the aircraft reached altitudes of 15,000 feet and a true airspeed of 300 knots. The crew said the aircraft flew exceptionally well and arrived without any hitches in "full up" condition.

Aircraft 21 is fleet representative and will be instrumented for the aerial delivery of people and cargo in the months ahead and will be used to expand the internal cargo envelope to include parachute delivery of the cargo. "As part of this testing to fur-

ther expand the Osprey's capabilities, static line parachutes will be used to deploy paratroopers," said LtCol Kevin Gross, V-22 government flight test director.

The second EMD aircraft (number 8) returned to flight on Oct. 19 and will be dedicated to performing high rate of descent (HROD) testing to further expand and more clearly define the boundaries of vortex ring state. The HROD testing may begin as early as November and over a 13-month period will include approximately 160 flight hours.

"The initial flight testing will pick up where we left off nearly two years ago with steady state low airspeeds and high sink rates to finish defining the steady boundary for V-22 vortex ring state (VRS), an aerodynamic phenomenon that can affect any rotorcraft that is flown well outside of its established flight parameters. Subsequent testing will exhaustively assess the effects on the VRS steady state boundary of aggressive maneuvering at low air speed and elevated sink rates," said Tom MacDonald, chief V-22 Integrated Test Team pilot. "This latter phase of testing will ensure that ongoing development of cockpit crew alerting features, pilot training and awareness and operational envelopes provide adequate protection to future operational V-22's while ensuring that mission effectiveness of the V-22 is in no way limited," said MacDonald.

The third aircraft, EMD number 10, and the first one to return to flight last May, is now flying with new flight control computer software and new mission computer software. After this software shake-down is complete, this aircraft will be used for roll on deck testing here and at sea on the USS Iwo Jima as

early as January 2003. This testing will ensure that the software modifications activate equipment on the aircraft to provide greater roll control, when the aircraft are parked, and thus allow for an adequate margin for roll perturbations caused by the wake of other aircraft.

By mid summer 2003, seven MV-22s, to include five LRIP and two EMD aircraft will be flight testing at Patuxent River and two CV-22 EMD aircraft will be flying at Edwards Air Force Base. The first CV-22 returned to flight at Edwards in September. Currently, the four aircraft now flying, three at Patuxent River and one at Edwards, have logged over 93 flight test hours and 39 flights.

To date, a summary of accomplishments include testing and validating new flight control system software, new avionics systems software, shake down testing of each aircraft, pilot re-qualification and routine proficiency training maneuvers, and testing and calibration of a new ultrasonic low airspeed sensor that will be used during upcoming high rate of descent tests.

The majority of the flight test program will be carried out at MV-22 test facility located at the Naval Air Systems Command Headquarters (NAVAIR). NAVAIR provides advanced warfare technology through the efforts of a seamless, integrated, worldwide network of aviation technology experts. From professional training to carrier launch; from sensor data to precision targeting; from aircraft and weapons development to successful deployment; from real-time communication to aircraft recovery NAVAIR provides dominant combat effects and matchless capabilities to the American warfighter.



courtesy photo

**The first Low Rate Initial Production aircraft to be used for developmental flight testing arrived, Oct. 12, a week ahead of schedule.**



# Opinions

## Why do you think we call it your club

**Col. Dennis Bartels**

MCAS New River Commanding Officer

It wasn't long ago that an officer or staff noncommissioned officer checking into a unit would make an automatic stop at their club to join.

The club wasn't just a place for drinking or eating lunch once a month; it was the center of the social interaction among military professionals. It was the meeting place for small or base-wide gatherings where camaraderie was built. It was the place where men and women could talk off-line and find solutions to problems, or meet people. It was also a place where they could meet to tell sea stories and boast of their exploits.

Why has this changed?

We recently held a membership drive for our Officers' and Staff NCO Clubs. The response was much less than could reasonably have been

expected. The Staff NCOs fared much better than the officers in attendance but frankly the response was dismal.

The club is a place that is supposed to emphasize the spirit and traditions of our ranks. As a young officer I learned much about the profession of arms through socializing at the club, interacting with peers and observing my seniors. As a commander I learned things about my Marines in a social setting that I wouldn't have found out in the "shop" or reviewing record books. The club produced an environment that did not exist, that doesn't exist in the squadron headquarters or down in maintenance control, an environment for open discussion that fostered the appreciation of and built on the spirit of the Corps.

I don't think there is any less love for the Marine Corps than there was 10 years ago. Everyday I drive around

base I see Marine bumper stickers on cars. I see people wearing T-shirts that proclaim their pride in being a Marine. I see all form and fashion of Marine Corps tattoos on men and women of all ranks. That spirit needs to be backed-up and it needs to be shared with those of us that have the common bond of having claimed the title - Marine.

The clubs that we have are a tradition that quite frankly is in danger. Without support from the ranks, the money will not be available to keep them going. If you are a member I ask that you spend some time talking with your peers and convince them to join. If you are not a member you should talk to your club representatives and tell them what the clubs can do spark some interest.

You are the owners of our clubs. By abstaining from membership, by not supporting their existence the message being sent is clear ... you don't want a

club system here at New River. And their elimination may not be too far away. At the current level of patronage our clubs do not produce enough revenue to sustain them. Unless each of us takes a proactive interest in the clubs, Headquarters Marine Corps will. Their intercession will simply be a directive that the Clubs be closed and the withdrawal of funds. This could happen within just a few months.

I am asking for your immediate help and I am asking again for your assistance in planning events, soliciting ideas and offering suggestions of what you want to see or do at your club.

These are your clubs. I want to see them not just survive but thrive. My door is always open to you. Your direct help and support, your ideas and suggestions is the only way we can preserve our clubs.

This is a Commanders challenge and a Command responsibility.

## Understanding transition assistance benefits

**Staff Sgt. Gregory K. Funk**  
correspondent

I know for a fact I am going to miss the Marine Corps. I have spent nearly 10 years in the finest military organization known throughout the world. I will always be proud of our history and traditions and the fact I am, and always will be, a Marine.

I came to a fork in the road, I had to make a choice and I chose to end my obligated service. It was not an easy decision to make; I am closing one of the best chapters so far in my life. It reminds me of graduating high school; I was excited to take those next uncertain steps that lay ahead, but sad too because I knew I would not see many of those people again.

I can honestly say the stress of moving on is much lower than what I anticipated because of the Marine Corps' Transition Assistance Program and separation briefs. These classes are available to anyone who is departing the service, regardless of their discharge.

Whether or not I am successful, post service, is entirely up to me. I do want to thank our Corps for

giving me the tools and knowledge that will be helpful in choosing new roads.

It supprises me that these classes haven't been mandatory before this fiscal year. Some people separating from the military, for whatever reason, would skip out of these classes. What a foolish and irresponsible action to make.

The transition class helps clear up many misconceptions a person may have concerning support and assistance outside of the military. These classes also give insight on how to be successful and the qualification for and use of benefits.

Some of these benefits are the Montgomery G.I. Bill, now increased to \$900 per month for 36 months. All one really needs to qualify is an honorable discharge.

Other veteran assistance benefits are the work study program, home loans and life insurance programs to name a few. Also explained are the Family Medical Leave Act and Americans with Disabilities Act, and how to better use unemployment benefits as a transitioning tool.

Other transitioning tools they teach are better ways to plan long, intermediate and short-term goals.

How to express one's skills into words a civilian can easily understand.

They emphasize the importance of a resume, what it's used for, what type of resume would benefit a person the most and how to create one. The classes even go into what type of questions one may be asked during an interview and ways to respond, and some simple guidelines on how to dress.

It can be quite stressful handling all this information without guidance. Part of the class discusses different stresses one may encounter during and after separation and ways to help deal with it.

I could go on and on about what I learned TAP and Separation classes, but that doesn't help you. If you are separating, attend the classes. It can only help, and I would personally encourage leaders to try and sit in on the two-day TAP classes at the Family Service Center. Why? It's important as leaders to guide our younger Marines and to know what challenges are facing them.

For more information regarding TAP classes call the personal service center at 449-6110. For information regarding separations, call the installation personnel administration center at 449-7335.

Check out our new and improved web site: [www.newriver.usmc.mil](http://www.newriver.usmc.mil)

# Awards and Promotions

## Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron

**Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal**  
Cpl. L. Rodriguez

**Good Conduct**  
Cpl. T. Hensley  
Cpl. S. Mckenzie  
Cpl. C. Navejar  
Cpl. N. Young  
Lance Cpl. C. Dennis  
Lance Cpl. J. Grizzle  
Lance Cpl. T. Guerrero  
Lance Cpl. K. Ham  
Lance Cpl. J. Kurz  
Lance Cpl. R. Lenaris

**Certificate of Commendation**  
Sgt. R. White  
Lance Cpl. A. Kawczk

**Promotions**  
Sgt. C. Allen  
Sgt. J. Furniss  
Sgt. H. Green  
Sgt. V. Gonzalez  
Sgt. L. Lainezflores  
Sgt. K. Monaco  
Sgt. M. Rivera  
Sgt. D. Sinanon  
Sgt. J. Vara  
Cpl. J. Freeland  
Cpl. J. Grizzle  
Cpl. W. Henderson  
Cpl. J. Melgar  
Cpl. P. Mockler  
Cpl. S. Phon  
Cpl. B. Ressler  
Cpl. J. Sullivan  
Cpl. B. Thompson  
Cpl. J. Wilson  
Lance Cpl. J. Allen Jr.  
Lance Cpl. I. Anthony  
Lance Cpl. B. Davis  
Lance Cpl. J. Ellsworth  
Lance Cpl. W. Leung  
Lance Cpl. K. Lewis  
Lance Cpl. N. Rivera

**ITB, C Company**  
**Honorman**  
Pfc. J. M. Abasciciano

**Meritorious Promotions**  
Lance Cpl. T.J. Coronel  
Lance Cpl. D.R. McNeill  
Lance Cpl. N. Wilt  
Lance Cpl. E.J. Horan  
Pfc. K. Hipps

## Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron-26

**Certificate of Commendation**  
Gunnery Sgt. M.E. Cline  
Staff Sgt. J.L. Hagler  
Sgt. A.A. Delgado

**Meritorious Mast**  
Sgt. S.B. Ahmad  
Cpl. G. Angarita  
Cpl. A.K. Broome  
Cpl. C.R. Cales  
Cpl. A.J. Devoy  
Cpl. A.T. Giberson  
Cpl. B.R. Lenox  
Cpl. L. Lowery  
Cpl. B.W. Nedimyer  
Cpl. S.I. Ortiz  
Cpl. A.W. Ovitt  
Cpl. P.P. Russo  
Lance Cpl. B.J. Canfield  
Lance Cpl. M.S. Davidson  
Lance Cpl. J. Frank  
Lance Cpl. L.M. Greer  
Lance Cpl. A.G. Hedrick  
Lance Cpl. J.A. Keldorph  
Lance Cpl. A.P. Kirchner  
Lance Cpl. C.A. Pohlman  
Lance Cpl. W.P. Ross  
Lance Cpl. Q.C. Saevre  
Lance Cpl. W.H. Shipman  
Lance Cpl. R.K. Smith  
Lance Cpl. J. Stevens Jr.

**Promotions**  
Staff Sgt. R.L. Bray  
Staff Sgt. C.C. Herring  
Staff Sgt. A.A. Lebron  
Staff Sgt. R.S. Sawejko  
Staff Sgt. A.M. Swisher  
Sgt. A.K. Broome  
Sgt. R.C. Graves Jr.  
Sgt. L.A. Howe II  
Sgt. R.L. Lee  
Sgt. W.G. Walters  
Sgt. J.M. White  
Sgt. T.J. Wilson  
Cpl. J.A. Glover  
Cpl. B.C. Hudson  
Cpl. J. Moreno Jr.  
Cpl. M.W. Sandel  
Cpl. D. Wiggins Jr.  
Lance Cpl. T.A. Agueros  
Lance Cpl. J.P. Crosby  
Lance Cpl. R.S. Gatlin  
Lance Cpl. L.A. Lewis  
Lance Cpl. M.G. Merkel  
Lance Cpl. J.R. Moates  
Lance Cpl. D.L. Peterson  
Lance Cpl. W.M. Rolland  
Pfc. R.A. Santamaria

## Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron-162

**Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal**  
Sgt. J. Braz  
Sgt. J.A. Kordie  
Sgt. E.A. Marsden  
Sgt. C. Monger  
Cpl. T.P. Batchelor  
Cpl. J.R. Coon  
Cpl. J.A. Neylon

**Certificate of Commendation**  
Cpl. N.S. Notham  
  
**Meritorious Mast**  
Lance Cpl. M.H. Borbonyanez

**Promotions**  
Sgt. J.A. Kordie  
Cpl. A.W. Nilson  
Cpl. M.Y. Love  
Cpl. J.R. Hickey  
Cpl. J.M. Gameson  
Lance Cpl. D.G. Williams  
Lance Cpl. J.W. Becker

## Marine Wing Support Squadron-272

**Promotions**  
Staff Sgt. J.L. Burnette  
Staff Sgt. B.S. Jones  
Staff Sgt. J.A. Lograsso  
Sgt. M.E. Avellanet  
Sgt. R.L. Hunt  
Sgt. N.S. Keast  
Sgt. S. Scott  
Sgt. T.D. Woodgett  
Cpl. E.S. Donaldson  
Cpl. E.S. Bacon  
Cpl. M.P. England  
Cpl. S.A. Fox  
Cpl. T.A. Freeland  
Cpl. J.D. Kinnie  
Cpl. A.E. Lesmeister  
Cpl. V.W. Lunsford  
Cpl. B.C. Radici  
Cpl. C.H. Richardson  
Cpl. B.G. Robbins  
Cpl. M.F. SuarezSuarez  
Cpl. D. Velazquez  
Cpl. R.D. Wright  
Cpl. R.J. Ybarra  
Lance Cpl. R.E. Sassi  
Lance Cpl. J.M. Stephens

## Volunteers rewarded



Lance Cpl Misty D. Salinas

**Lita Bartels, wife of Col. Dennis Bartels, New River commanding officer, spoke at the awards ceremony for the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society, Oct. 29, honoring volunteers.**

## Spouses graduate team-building program



Sgt. Juan Vara

**Military spouses attending the Lifestyles, Insights, Networking, Knowledge and Skills program celebrated their graduation, Oct. 24.**

## Filipino-American Ball



Cpl. Andrew W. Miller

**The 27th Annual Filipino-American Coronation Ball was held at the Station Officer's Club, Oct. 26. Beauty pageants, music and food highlighted the event.**



# 'Iron Horses' roll like thunder

**Sgt. Juan Vara**  
correspondent

**FORT BRAGG, N.C.** - Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron-461 and artillery batteries Bravo and Golf of MCB Camp Lejeune's 1st Battalion, 10th Marine Regiment conducted exercise Rolling Thunder, Oct. 18.

In support of the artillery units, two CH-53E helicopters from the "Iron Horse" squadron provided insertions of personnel, a High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicle and four M-198 155 mm howitzers into terrain inaccessible by trucks.

With the weight of each load being less than the maximum lift capacity of a CH-53E Super Stallion, it was possible to transport personnel and equipment simultaneously.

The gear was lifted using dual-point hookups. In compliance with Marine Aviation Operational Risk Management, a hookup team stood on top of the load and a Marine with a static wand discharged static electricity to avoid electricity built-up on surfaces as a result of friction from particles flying in the air. By doing this, sparks are avoided, preventing explosions.

After the load was hooked to the aircraft, the hookup team dismounted the load and remained close as the helicopter removed slack from the chains hooked to it. When successful hookup was

assured, the hookup team quickly exited the area underneath the helicopter to the designated assembly point.

"It is imperative for us to have the lift capability afforded by HMH-461," said Capt. Walker M. Field, Bravo 1/10 commanding officer. "It's needed to project artillery forward without using trucks."

The New River and Camp Lejeune units were integrated in a relatively unfamiliar terrain, training at some of the landing zones and artillery ranges of Fort Bragg which are slightly larger than those at Camp Lejeune.

According to Capt. Aaron W. Adams, a Murfreesboro, Tenn., native now a CH-53E helicopter pilot with HMH-461, conducting the exercise aboard Fort Bragg gave everybody an opportunity to train away from home.

"This was primarily done to have the artillery units pack their gear and travel to a new location where they have to set up camp, simulating a real deployment," Adams added. "It's easy to do anything in your own backyard [Camp Lejeune], but in a new environment is not as easy to adjust."

After the insertions, the Super Stallions had to be refueled. The designated refueling point was Pope Air Force Base, N.C., approximately a 15-minute flight from Fort Bragg.

After the artillery units concluded their training, personnel and equipment were extracted from the

range and transported back to the LZ.

"This had to be done fast," stated Adams. "In a real combat scenario the enemy would have tracked where the artillery came from and would have been firing back."

The helicopters made another 'pit-stop' at Pope Air Force Base before beginning their return to MCAS New River.

"To compensate for the loads we were lifting we didn't carry as much fuel as we could have," said Adams. "We had to refuel more often because of this."

While at Pope Air Force Base the helicopters were pumped with enough fuel to get them back to Fort Bragg, allowing them to perform the extractions and get to the refueling point again. It is necessary to calculate the weight of the fuel when transporting heavy loads. Surpassing the helicopters lift capability increases the risk of mishaps.

"It's important to conduct this type of training to know what to do when we are supporting infantrymen in areas where we can't drive our gear ourselves," said Lance Cpl. Kyle J. Bower, a Bravo 1/10 ammunition team chief from Blossburg, Pa.

According to Field, integrating a heavy helicopter squadron with two artillery units is very rare because of the busy schedules of the units involved. Thanks to meticulous coordination, all participants got a chance to hone their skills.



Sgt. Juan Vara

**Marines from MCB Camp Lejeune's Bravo Battery, 1st Battalion, 10th Marine Regiment hook an M-198 155mm howitzer to a CH-53E helicopter from Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron-461, while conducting exercise Rolling Thunder, Oct. 18, at Fort Bragg, N.C.**





Sgt. Juan Vara

Led by Lt. Col. Timothy W. Fitzgerald, Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron commanding officer, and Sgt. Maj. Lewis Summerville, squadron sergeant major, Marines and Sailors from the squadron conducted a forced march around the Air Station and Camp Devil Dog, Oct. 28.

# Blood, Sweat, Blisters

## Station Marines hike to field, conduct warrior training

**Sgt. Juan Vara**  
correspondent

The backbone of Marine Corps Air Station New River is made up of hundreds of Marines from various military occupational specialties who work day in and day out to assist the Marine Aircraft Groups in accomplishing their missions.

The hectic and fluctuating schedules these Marines work do not afford them many opportunities to conduct training on a large scale. However, the squadron's new commanding officer is making it a primary mission to change this.

Approximately 235 Marines from Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron participated in a 10-mile forced march around the Station, Oct. 28. At the halfway point, the Marines conducted refresher training on patrol organization, mines and booby traps, covering and concealing a fighting position, and equipment and personal camouflage.

"The Marines in Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron can be augmented to Marine Expeditionary Units," said Lt. Col. Timothy W. Fitzgerald, H&HS

commanding officer. "Other units have the time to refresh their warfighting skills, but the Marines here are running an air station and there needs to be time set aside for this type of training."

According to Master Sgt. Donald L. Funkhouser, squadron training chief, conducting this type of training is important because regardless of their MOS, every Marine is a rifleman and at any given time can be assigned to a Marine rifle squad either on the front lines or providing rear security.

"American society is naturally violent, especially now," Funkhouser added. "With a little bit of training, the Marines in this squadron shouldn't have any problems destroying the enemy."

Originally conceived by Fitzgerald, the idea behind this evolution was to build camaraderie between the Marines of the 26 sections that make up the squadron.

"This is the type of training we can build upon as a squadron," said Maj. Bryan K. Wood, Station provost marshal. "Going out as a team and not as individual sections made us think of some things we hadn't thought of in a long time, whether it be Marine

Combat Training for the enlisted Marines or The Basic School for the officers who were there."

For Lance Cpl. Kristopher J. Giltinan, an administrative clerk at the Station Headquarters administration shop and Ogdensburg, N.Y., native, it was a great opportunity to receive some long overdue training.

"The most interesting part was the training on mines and booby traps," said Giltinan. "The last time I saw anything like this was almost four years ago at MCT. Right now is essential for all Marines to be in top shape and highly knowledgeable in warfare tactics."

This event marked the first of several training evolutions the squadron is planning.

"In December, we're going to conduct land navigation training aboard New River and Camp Geiger," said Funkhouser. "In order for us to protect our country, we have to train to be the best we can be."

Getting out of the office, stepping out of the warehouses and behind the desks, the Marines in Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron are donning their combat gear, maintaining proficiency in what Marines do best: Winning the battle.





Cpl. Andrew W. Miller

**Kenneth Reinhold, electrical technician, puts the finishing touches on the gas pumps during renovations at the Air Station's service station. The grand opening of the service station is scheduled for Nov. 8.**

# Service station undergoes renovations

**Cpl. Andrew W. Miller**  
correspondent

Getting gas has never been easier thanks to the renovations to the Station's service station which began, Oct. 7.

The old pumps, which were approximately 20-years-old, were replaced with new pumps allowing Marines to pay at the pump via credit card. The new gas pumps will give the "night crew" Marines the luxury of filling up 24-hours a day.

"In the past, only the Marines passing by during the day had access to the pumps, leaving the night workers out in the cold if they needed gas on their way to work," said Diane Lundy, service station manager. "Hopefully, the new pumps will accommodate everyone better."

This approximately \$90,000 project is not stopping at the gas pumps according to Paul Quinn, New River Marine Corps Community Services director. Plans also include upgrading the inside of the store area and possibly adding new air pumps and a vacuum facility. Recently, a telephone booth was placed in front of the service station in hopes that if someone has an accident and needs to report a spill, the phone will come in handy.

With all of the renovations that are being made to the service station, it will still continue to provide the everyday service work to keep New River's Marines

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**New River Service Station  
Grand Opening  
Nov. 8 9 a.m.  
449-6092**

---

and Sailors up and running. The service station will still offer the same auto repair services that it offers now insuring quality and satisfaction. These include, rotate and balancing, tire repair, tune-ups and brake work just to name a few.

"A lot of Marines think we are merely a gas station and don't realize exactly how much service work we offer," said Lundy. "Everything we provide, from flushing fuel injectors to replacing shocks and struts, is handled by an ASE (Automotive Service Excellence) certified mechanic."

Although the upgrades will be an on-going project for the service station, the idea is to complete it in a fashion to make it as convenient as possible for everyone and boost business, according to Quinn.

The Station service station is scheduled to have a grand opening, Nov. 8, at 9 a.m. Free tires to free gas will be given out to lucky individuals throughout the day.

# LICENSE

*from page 3*

"Sometimes people forget they had to send in a check or had to appear in court," stated Callon. "If you pay your fines or go to court to get your license reinstated out in town, we will reinstate it on base."

Don't test your luck, this isn't Las Vegas. Don't try to beat the system, it's just not worth it. Simply stay away from having your license suspended or you'll be walking or running under all types of weather year-round ... but at least you'll be in good shape!



Cpl. Josh P. Vierela

## One man's trash, another's treasure

Lance Corporal Jefferson M. Tilley, warehouse supply clerk, Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron, found a piece of trash in family housing and decided to pick it up. On the piece of trash was a 96-hour liberty pass courtesy of the Station sergeant major.

New River Marines and Sailors are encouraged to help keep our Air Station clean.

The next treasure could be yours.



# 'Thunder Eagles' learn air-to-air combat in Italy

**Gunnery Sgt. Mike Dougherty**  
24th MEU Public Affairs

**DECIMOMANNU, Italy** - Pilots of Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron-263's Harrier detachment followed a successful stay in Rota, Spain by breaking new ground with 10 days of bilateral training with their Italian Harrier counterparts of the Gruppo Aerei Imbarcati.

The Gruppo Aerei Imbarcati, or Grupaer, is Italy's only Harrier squadron. For the first time in several years, pilots from both countries shared ranges, experience and more than 100 flight hours over the island of Sardinia.

According to Capt. Jeff Bonner, an AV-8BII+ pilot with the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable), he and his fellow Marine aviators found the whole experience extremely valuable, for several reasons. "The combined training with the Italians was definitely the best part," he said.

While the American pilots primarily train for close air support of ground troops, the Italians train differently, specializing in air-to-air intercepts vice air-to-ground operations, said Bonner. "It's interesting to see how a different country operates their aircraft," he said. The MEU's pilots and those of the Grupaer practiced tactical air-to-air combat on their flying days, which benefited the Amphibious Ready Group, said Bonner. "That increases our ability to perform EDATF, or Emergency Defense of the Amphibious Task Force," he said. This ensures that the Harriers are ready to defend the ships from any hostile aircraft if need be.

The bilateral aspect of the training was uniquely valuable in a different sense as well. "(Training with the Italians) allows for joint training as we progress toward joint missions," said Bonner. And for both squadrons, it was a good chance to get flight hours, he added.

Bonner, along with pilots of the U.S. Air Force's 555th Fighter Squadron from Aviano, Italy were in agreement on their assessment of the training opportunities on the island. "Here, they have some of the best ranges in Europe," said Bonner. The Air Force F-



Gunnery Sgt. Mike Dougherty

## U.S. and Italian AV-8BII + Harriers return from an aerial combat training over Sardinia.

16 Viper pilots deployed to Sardinia for more than three months during the reconstruction of their flightline in Aviano, and were equally enthusiastic about training on Sardinia. One of the best opportunities there was the Grupaer's Autonomous Air Combat Maneuvering Instructor, or AACMI. "I've never seen one more advanced - it was definitely 'tip of the spear,'" said Bonner.

The AACMI incorporates a training pod that hangs from the aircraft's wing in place of its missile system, and visually transmits the position of the plane along with those it is flying with and fighting against at all times. Also, it monitors any ordnance that is fired by the aircraft during the training mission.

After the mission, pilots are able to see an "instant replay" of their sortie with all its engagements on the AACMI's indoor component. This system consists of a bank of large monitors that displays different elements of the flight profile, and features audio effects to simulate missile engagements, according to Cmdr. Massimo Russo, Commanding Officer, Gruppo Aerei Imbarcati. The largest one shows a "God's Eye" view, displaying all aircraft and shots fired. The others show graphic illustrations of the views from each plane's cockpit, while the remaining screens show the actual field of view from the pilots' HUD, or Heads Up Display. Between all of these different representations of the flight profile and engagements, it effectively lifts the 'fog of war' from

aerial combat with multiple planes, and takes the guesswork out of determining who-shot-who, said Maj. James Wellons, a pilot with the MEU's Harrier detachment.

Despite the sixty-plus sorties flown and the skills honed by flying with their Grupaer counterparts, the Marine aviators only scratched the surface of what Decimomannu has to offer in terms of training - pilots may run out of flight time before they run out of range - an uncommon occurrence over land. According to Maj. Keith Chirico, the U.S.'s AV-8B exchange pilot to Italy, the island has the only laser range in the Mediterranean, which provides a significant opportunity for the MEU Harrier team to integrate and maintain "Precision Guided Munitions" proficiency training during every deployment. Accumulation of flight hours and sorties is important, but the quality of the (training) depends upon air-space and range flexibility that allows training which closely simulates combat operations.

Now that the Marines of HMM-263 have successfully exercised and once again validated dual-site operations, all that stands in the way to enable future Aviation Combat Element detachments to take advantage of Decimomannu's training opportunities is the proper funding and 15 days of "white space," or time in between operations, said Chirico. Precision Guided Munitions training is crucial in providing the support Marines on the ground deserve. It's of enormous value to the MEU, he said.

Forward-deployed. Ready.



[www.24meu.usmc.mil](http://www.24meu.usmc.mil)

# Suicide prevention, awareness remains critical over holidays

**Cpl. Andrew W. Miller**  
correspondent

With the holiday months upon us, most Marines and Sailors aboard the Air Station will be looking forward to spending some much deserved leave time with friends and family. What is sometimes forgotten is the fact that not everyone has this to look forward to. For some, the holidays can be a very lonely and depressing time, when suicide is at its highest.

"This is sometimes known as the 'holiday blues period,'" said Commander Howard Marshall, Station chaplain. "Sometimes people feel at their worst during this period because of the emphasis that is placed on family gatherings."

So much pressure is placed on being happy that for some single people, it might create a period of depression that they just can't spin out of.

Suicide is always a concern year-round, but during these holiday times, this added pressure elevates the awareness.

Although suicide can happen to anyone in any age group, it has been found most frequently in enlisted males, caucasian, E-4 and below and between the ages of 17-24.

So what are some motives that would drive someone to harm themselves in such a way? Some of the more popular motives are; loss, whether it be

## Possible Suicide Warning Signs

suicide comments/threats  
preparing wills  
acting depressed  
unusual behavior  
previous attempt

CALL FOR HELP	Command Chaplain	449-6801
	MAG 26 Chaplain	449-7180
	MAG 29 Chaplain	449-6866
	Duty Chaplain	449-6111

through death or divorce; rejection or failure; disease; and finally fear.

Some people show obvious warning signs and some not so obvious. Looking for and picking up on these warning signs just might save someone's life. Some warning signs include: Statements of a possible suicide, preparing wills, acting depressed, unusual behavior and whether or not the person has made a previous attempt.

At the first sign of possible suicide attempt, one must immediately shift into prevention gear. Believing that the person is serious is the first step to

getting them help. You must talk freely with them about the matter and using your chain of command, get them into the hands of professionals.

If you suspect that someone is contemplating suicide, never assume that they are kidding or joking. Don't minimize the matter and never promise them that you will keep it a secret.

"It is our jobs as Marines and Sailors to ask questions if we see a problem," said Petty Officer 1st Class Aaron Painter. "We should always be alert and recognize the warning signs."

"I have been in Jacksonville for approximately five years between Camp Geiger and Camp Lejeune," said Marshall. "I have been here at New River for one year and am proud to say that we are at zero percent suicide rate."

Marshall credits this to excellent leadership in our Corps.

"One of the most important things a leader can do is know his or her Marines," he said. "When holidays come around, a good leader will know what his younger Marines are going through in their personal lives."

Suicide prevention is a very serious subject not to be over-looked. The stress level will rise through these upcoming holiday seasons, but pulling together and helping those who may be a little lonely or down on their luck, will help keep the New River spirit alive.



# Jacksonville honors veterans with tribute parade

Story and photos by  
**Sgt. Juan Vara**  
correspondent

Thankfulness, smiles, patriotism and pride flooded the city of Jacksonville Saturday morning, during the Veteran's Day Parade on Western Boulevard and at a later event held at the Jacksonville USO.

The parade featured high school bands and veteran organizations from around the area, local law enforcement agencies, and representatives from Marine Corps Air Station New River and Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune.

"America is at war right now and it's a different scenario than it was last year," said Sgt. Maj. Virgil G. Dwyer, MCAS New River sergeant major. "To make this event better we're working on a new 'plan of attack,' trying to have helicopters in next year's parade."

Activities followed at the USO during a "For the Troops" celebration, where free food and refreshments were provided to Marines and veterans.

The New Bern Dance Ensemble, an Elvis impersonator

and two local singers entertained those in attendance.

In anticipation of Nov. 10, the 227th birthday of the Marine Corps, a cake cutting ceremony took place. Private Bryan S. Konowitz, a Manahawk, N.J., native, now a student at Camp Geiger's School of Infantry, was the youngest Marine present. Following Marine Corps traditions, Konowitz, born Aug. 14, 1984, received the first piece of cake from retired Master Gunnery Sgt. Quinzell Hayes, who was born on Feb. 17, 1934, making him the oldest Marine present.

"This is the first time I've ever been to a USO," said Lance Cpl. Benjamin J. Nickerson, a Boca Raton, Fla., native, now an armorer with 1st Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment at MCB Camp Lejeune. "I'm having a great time here."

The party ended with the "Hooters Girls" autographing calendars and posing for pictures.

Marking the end of World War I, Nov. 11, 1918 was declared a legal holiday known as "Armistice Day," dedicated to honor WWI veterans. After the end of World War II, President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed proclamation 3071, Oct. 8, 1954, changing Armistice Day to Veteran's Day, a day to honor veterans of all wars.



At the United Servicemen's Organization, cake escorts wait to deliver the Marine Corps birthday cake for the cake cutting ceremony.



One of the floats in the Veteran's Day Parade featured a re-enactment of the flag-raising on Mount Suribachi.



Marines from New River's Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting participated in the local parade by showing off their equipment to the crowd.



The II Marine Expeditionary Force's band marched in Jacksonville's Veteran's Day Parade, Nov. 2.





Good warfighters know self-control and discipline. They know courage and fear no challenge. Most of all, they know there is no such thing as an army of one ...

***The strength is in the team.***

**Practice and Encourage Responsible Drinking**

# ADMISSION

Free with military I.D.

## NEW RIVER THEATER

Nov. 8	7 p.m.	The Banger Sisters
	9:30 p.m.	Stealing Harvard
Nov. 9	7 p.m.	Swim Fan
	9:30 p.m.	City By The Sea
Nov. 10	3 p.m.	Hey Arnold! The Movie
	6 p.m.	Swim Fan
Nov. 11	7 p.m.	City By The Sea
Nov. 13	9 a.m.	Trapped
	7 p.m.	Ballistic: Ecks vs Sever
Nov. 15	7 p.m.	The Four Feathers
	9:30 p.m.	Ballistic: Ecks vs Sever
Nov. 16	7 p.m.	The Four Feathers
	10 p.m.	Ballistic: Ecks vs Sever
Nov. 17	3 p.m.	The Four Feathers
	6 p.m.	The Banger Sisters

449-6292 \*movies/showtimes subject to change

[www.localmovies.com](http://www.localmovies.com)

## HAPPENINGS

### Staff NCO Club 449-6707

~ Lunch Specials Tuesdays-Thursdays 11 a.m.-1 p.m. ~

Nov. 19	Italian Buffet
Nov. 26	Thanksgiving Buffet
Dec. 3	Fried Chicken
Dec. 10	Seafood Buffet
Dec. 17	Baked Ham

~ Bingo Saturdays 6:30 p.m. ~

~ Members' Lounge Weekdays 3 p.m. - until ~  
(Happy Hour Wednesdays)

~ Christmas Party (Adults Only) Dec. 13 ~

~ New Year's Party (Adults Only) Dec. 31 ~

\*The SNCO Club will be closed Nov. 28-29 and Dec. 23-27 for the holidays.

### Enlisted Club 449-0589

~ Latin Dance Night Fridays 8 p.m.-3 a.m. ~

~ "House Party" Night Saturdays 8 p.m.-3 a.m. ~

### Officers' Club 449-6409

~ Lunch Daily 11 a.m.-1 p.m. ~



# 3 Doors Down, Echo 7 rock New River

Photos and story by  
**Lance Cpl. Misty D. Salinas**  
correspondent

Despite the cold weather, the alternative rock concert held at the outdoor concert site aboard Station was the hottest place to be Nov. 2.

Alternative rock groups 3 Doors Down and Echo 7 performed live at MCAS New River as part of Marine Corps Community Service's concert season. The concert was open to the public.

Getting the crowd warmed up before 3 Doors Down took the stage was a rock band from Myrtle Beach, S.C. Echo 7 got the night rolling with hard rock that had the crowd jumping.

The alternative rock group 3 Doors Down, made up of lead singer Brad Arnold, bassist Todd Harrell, drummer Josh Freese and guitarists Matt Roberts and Chris Henderson, just completed an overseas tour that started in early October. It was a goodwill concert tour for U.S. troops aboard Naval stations, to include Rota, Spain; Sigonella, Italy; Naples, Italy; Bahrain Naval Base; and one undisclosed location. The band also played aboard a Naval aircraft carrier in the Mediterranean before coming to New River.

According to Harrell, the idea behind doing the tour came from Henderson, who spent 11 years as a Navy Seabee. Having been in the military he recognized the importance of honoring those who serve their country.

"I just want all the Marines to know that we appreciate them keeping us free," said Arnold.

During the concert, the band played a special song titled "Not Be Forgotten." The song was written for the troops by the band in response to the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. Due to the controversial "revenge-centered" nature of the song, fans will not find the song released on any future albums.

From the time the band took the stage until they finished, the audience was on their feet screaming, cheering and singing along.

This was not the last concert of the year aboard Station. The Beach Boys are scheduled to appear at the outdoor concert site in December.



Echo 7, a rock band out of Myrtle Beach, S.C., opened for 3 Doors Down, Nov. 2, at the New River concert site.



Performing songs off their old album and new songs from their soon-to-be-released album, 3 Doors Down entertained the New River crowd, Nov. 2.





The New River Chaplain's Office is collecting food donations for Holiday Cheer.  
Any and all food donations are greatly appreciated!  
Donations need to be non-perishable food items.

*The following is a list of suggested items:*

*cream of mushroom soup, green beans, corn, cranberry sauce, yams, gravy, pie filling,  
boxed pie crust mix, instant potatoes, stuffing, cornbread mix, biscuit mix, turkey tins*

# Belding takes ‘Bulls’ by horns

**Lance Cpl. Misty D. Salinas**  
correspondent

During Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron-261's change of command ceremony, Oct. 31, at the squadron's hangar, Lt. Col. Mark J. Desens passed command of the "Raging Bulls" to Lt. Col. Michael H. Belding.

In a 'bittersweet' moment during the ceremony, Desens thanked the Marines in the squadron for exceeding his every hope and expectations, and performing with distinction and courage in the most challenging of circumstances.

Desens passed command to an officer who is no stranger to the HMM-261 family. Before taking command, Belding served as executive officer of the squadron.

"The advantage for the squadron is that they have a new commander that has been here for 15 months; I know the people and the issues," said Belding.

According to Belding, having a history with the squadron and knowing how they perform allows for a smooth transition between commanding officers.

Because the squadron has just come off a deployment and gone through the de-composite process, the process of losing personnel temporarily assigned to

the squadron to augment the Marine Expeditionary Unit, one of Belding's goals is to retain the high level of training standards achieved during the deployment. He also wants to bring Marines new to the squadron up to those same standards.

Belding looks forward to working toward these goals, and others, as he commands the Marines of HMM-261.

"I think most 46 [CH-46E Sea Knight] pilots will tell you, being in command of Marines is the best thing you can do in a career," said the Waynesburg, Pa. native. "Just having the responsibility, and having the Marines that work for you know that you are leading them down the training paths to be ready and combat effective, if and when we deploy, is just awesome."

Belding's career in the Marine Corps began in 1981.

He met a Marine Corps officer at a career day held at Pennsylvania State University, and was so impressed that he pursued a career in the Marine Corps.

Since becoming a CH-46E Sea Knight pilot in the Marine Corps, this is the fifth medium helicopter squadron Belding has served with.

"Bias aside, I think it [HMM-261] is one of the best squadrons I have worked with," said Belding.



Lance Cpl. Misty D. Salinas

**Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron-261's new commanding officer, Lt. Col. Michael H. Belding, and his family after the change of command ceremony at the squadron hangar, Oct. 31.**

## “Boomer” achieves milestone



Sgt. Juan Vara

**Colonel Robert E. Milstead, Marine Aircraft Group 29 commanding officer, achieved a milestone, Oct. 31, surpassing 4,000 flight hours in the AH-1W Super Cobra.**

## ‘Wolverines’ return from deployment



Sgt. Juan Vara

**A detachment of Marines from Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron-29 returned to New River, Oct. 30, after spending approximately three months between Twentynine Palms, Calif., and Yuma, Ariz., supporting Combined Arms Exercises and Weapons and Tactics Instruction.**



# New River Marine awarded top honor

**Lance Cpl. Misty D. Salinas**  
correspondent

Bearing, knowledge, physical fitness test scores, uniform inspections and a myriad of other things are evaluated for Marine Corps boards. For the "Patriot" who is always squared away, this was not the most daunting aspect of the process. Suspense, nervousness and not knowing what to expect were major obstacles.

Without knowing how many competitors for each board, or whether his scores in one area or another were going to be enough to topple the opposition, Lance Cpl. Andre G. Joseph, Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron-26 administrative clerk, pushed on with strong "Patriot spirit" to win all three of the Marine of the Quarter boards.

After winning the MALS-26 and Marine Aircraft Group 26 Marine of the Quarter competition, Joseph went on to win the honor of 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing Marine of the Quarter in October.

Joseph knew that his superiors wanted to put him on a board, but only had four days to prepare for his first Marine of the Quarter board. The majority of preparation went into studying knowledge.

"He stayed up all night studying knowledge," said Teran. "He not only got knowledge from us in the office, but he went to other Marines that had won prior boards and got knowledge from them."

"You can study everything, and think you know everything, then when you go in there they can ask you something way out of the blue and you don't know," said Joseph. "You can't be looking around the room or up in the sky for the answer, you have to keep your bearing."

Joseph has only been in the Corps for 13 months, but his refusal to just sit behind the desk and let the work come to him was a trait that didn't go unnoticed by the Marines in his office. Gunnery Sgt. Rodolfo R. Graham, MALS-26 administrative chief, recommended the 19 year-old Trinidad native to be placed on the MALS-26 board.

"He is an outstanding Marine," said Graham. "He is very intelligent and he has a lot of confidence; it's one of the things I admire about him. When he went up for the board he came to me and told me he was going to take it, and he did."

"All my life, whatever I put my mind to, I've always gotten it done," said Joseph. "Basically, I told myself

that I wanted to win the board, and if you go in with the right attitude then you will succeed."

According to Cpl. Tyrel Teran, MALS-26 personnel chief, what helped Joseph win the boards was 'his strive for greatness.'

"When he first got here he was a little timid, but once we got him a specific job to do he went with it and has excelled," said Teran. "Overall, he is a really good Marine with a lot of potential, and if he stays with it he will go far."

That strive, ambition and initiative is what helped propel Joseph into joining the Marine Corps.

"While growing up, I always liked doing something challenging, always doing the hardest thing, just to prove I could do it," said Joseph. "I wanted to join the Marine Corps, have a good experience and use the Corps as a stepping stone toward my future career, in or outside the Marine Corps."

Outside of the office, Joseph is currently attending college to pursue a degree in computers and business. During the soccer season he also plays for the Station soccer team.

"He enjoys being a Marine," said Graham. "He wants to learn more and he pushes himself to learn more."



Lance Cpl. Misty D. Salinas

**Lance Cpl. Andre G. Joseph, Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron-26 administrative clerk, was recently honored as 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing Marine of the Quarter.**

## Ghosts, goblins, ghouls, oh my!



Lance Cpl. Misty D. Salinas

**Several 'Patriots' of Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron-26 dressed in the Halloween spirit for their annual Halloween fun run, Oct. 31.**

## Every 'Patriot' was kung-fu fighting



Gunnery Sgt. Gwendolyn Shull

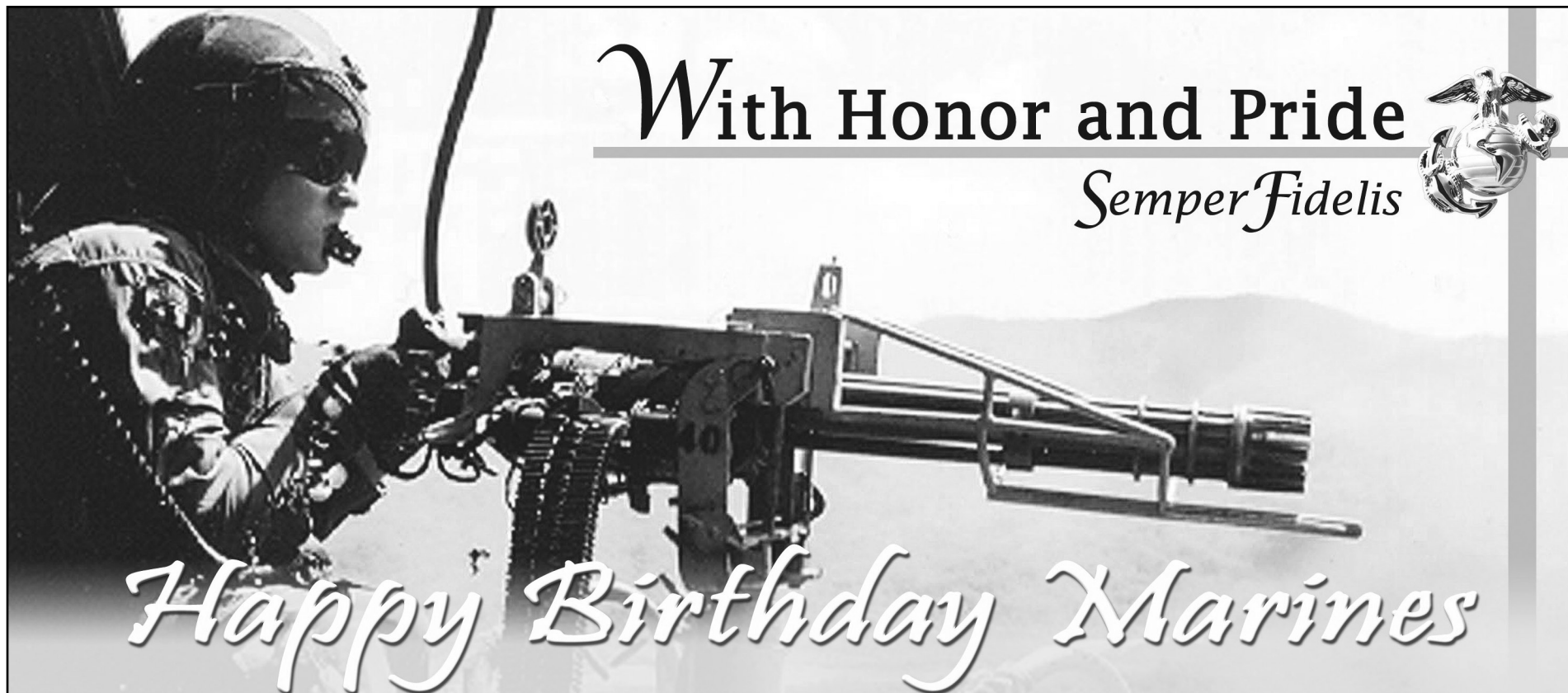
**Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron-26 awarded 16 Marines their tan belts after participating in an intense 12-day martial arts training course.**



*With Honor and Pride*  
*Semper Fidelis*



*Happy Birthday Marines*





# ONLY THE FACES CHANGE, THE HERITAGE REMAINS THE SAME



*On November 10, 1775 a corps of Marines was created by a resolution of the Continental Congress. Since that date many thousand men have borne the name Marine.*

*In memory of them it is fitting that we who are Marines should commemorate the birthday of our Corps by calling to mind the glories of its long and illustrious history.*

*The record of our Corps is one which will bear comparison with that of the most famous military organization in the world's history. During 90 of 146 years of its existence the Marine Corps has been in action against the nation's foes. From the Battle of Trenton to the Argonne, Marines have won foremost honors in war, and in the long eras of tranquility at home generation after generation of Marines have grown gray in wars in both hemispheres, and in every corner of the seven seas that our country and its citizens might enjoy peace and security.*

*In every battle and skirmish since the birth of our Corps Marines have acquitted themselves with the greatest distinction, winning new honors on each occasion until the term Marine has come to signify all that is highest in military efficiency and soldierly virtue.*

*This high name of distinction and soldierly repute we who are Marines today have received from those who preceded us in the Corps. With it also received from them the eternal spirit which has animated our Corps from generation to generation and has been the distinguishing mark of the Marines in every age. So long as the spirit continues to flourish Marines will be found equal to every emergency in the future as they have been in the past, and the men of our nation will regard us as worthy successors to the long line of illustrious men who have served as "soldiers of the sea" since the founding of our Corps.*

*Lt. Gen. John A. Lejeune*

